(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl. No.	Sector	Budget Estimates 2000-2001
77	Plantation of Minor Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants	1600.00
78	Lump sum Provision for North East States and Sikkim	8500.00
	Total of the Ministry	850000.00

Ownership of small forest produce to Gram-Sabhas

†3437. SHRI VIKRAM VERMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have enforced the Forest (Management in Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 in all States, under which ownership of small forest produce is to be given to Gram-Sabhas;

(b) whether any assurance was given by the Centre to States that only those States would be compensated which provide ownership of small forest produce to their Gram-Sabha Members; and

(c) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government has given ownership of all small forest produce to Gram Sabhas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) There is no Act named the Forest (Management in Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 and therefore the question of its enforcement does not arise.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. The ownership rights of Minor Forest Produce have been conferred on the Gram Sabhas under the Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 enacted by the Central Government (the then Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment).

Damage to Forests by Blasting in Sand Mining in Solan

3438. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Environment and Forests have asked the Forest Department of Himachal Pradesh to make assessment of damage caused to forests and its ecological balance on account of blasting in sand mining in Solan district;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of the report submitted by the team which made on-the-spot visit;

(c) whether the State Government have issued licenses for sand mining for such areas in violation of rules whereas the standing trees were found; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Environmental Status Report of Industrial Area Parwanoo

3439. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be please to state:

(a) whether Government have received the Environmental Status Report of Industrial area, Parwanoo (H.P.); and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, with findings in the report and the comments of the Central Government in this behalf?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Information on Forest and Health of Eco-System

3440. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be please to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that information on forest and health of eco-system is scattered and a set of criteria and indicators is needed to help improve quantity and quality of information to decision- makers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a forest management tool to measure compliance with and relevance of policy is also required and accountability through this process should be to the local people and to the nation as a whole; and

(c) if so, what are Government's plan to achieve the aforesaid targets to make the eco-system function and ensure vitality?